



September 16, 2020

Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes



The meeting was held via WebEx.

Per current practice, the meeting is also streamed live on Facebook at Frederick County Sustainability Commission and made available via phone (1-855-925-2801, Code 9813) for listening.

Present: Chair; Elizabeth Law, Faith Klareich; Vice-Chair; Mark Sankey; Secretary; Kevin Sellner, Bill Steigelman, Ron Kaltenbaugh (PT), Jennifer Bird, John Ferri (PT), Jim Reed (PT)

Frederick County Council Liaison: Kai Hagen

OSER staff: Shannon Moore, Dawn Ashbacher

Guests/Public: None

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Betty Law and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Betty Law asked for any discussion on August's meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by the Commissioners unanimously without comment.

Action Item Update – Chair and OSER

- Betty Law and Dawn Ashbacher reviewed past initiatives on the Commission and progress made.
- Legislative recommendations were made to the County Executive (CE) as follows;
 - Supported Bill HB 561- Community Choice Aggregation – Supports Montgomery County Pilot Project for electric energy purchase.
 - Supported Bill HB 209F – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act.
 - Supported HB 395 Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – Proceeds designated for MD Healthy Soils Program.

Setting Goals for the Sustainability Commission for the Coming Year – Commission Discussion

- Betty reviewed results of the December 3, 2019 meeting with the CE, Jan Gardner.

- Dawn suggested coordination with Livable Frederick for efforts related to County LEED for Communities certification.
- Faith clarified the 355/85 Corridor Plan is now named South Frederick's Corridor Plan and that the group is now starting activity. Cooperation will continue.
- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). As a priority of the CE, this will be an initiative of the Commission.
 - A motion was put forward to form a subcommittee and passed by the Commission. The SC will comprise Ron and Faith.
 - Activity will include outreach to the business community including Chamber of Commerce and Office of Economic Development.
 - Collect data and experience of other MD counties and other entities.
 - Identify and coordinate with other related environmental groups. Offer technical support as warranted.
 - The SC will report to the Commission at the November meeting.
- Discussion of goals will continue at future meetings.

Recommendations to Achieve Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050 Through Effective Energy Policy – Presentation by Karen Russell, Chair, Climate Change Working Group

- Karen shared data (Keeling diagrams courtesy NOAA) demonstrating concern over increased CO₂ as primary GHG.
- Presented information of energy efficiency and significant inefficiency from generation sources (INPUT) to consumed power (OUTPUT).
- MD consumes 5 times more electric power than it produces and is dependent on PJM which mostly generates power from nuclear, coal, and gas.
- Reviewed potential for all Frederick County power to come from local solar power. Currently impractical based on available technology. Hopeful for future improvement and technology development.
- General stepwise approach to achieve all renewable energy sources presented.
- Report Recommendations for County.
 - Explore telework and broadband access
 - Monitor Phase 1 and 2 plans for I-270 corridor related to electric public transportation
 - Support county efforts to advance Electric Vehicle charging stations

- Electrify school buses
- EV driver's education Microgrids for energy security - assessment
- Entire presentation is available at link, (this works best if cut and pasted into a search bar) <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/11869>

Energy Recommendations Q&A and Comments

- Commission thanked Karen and acknowledged value of report.
- Faith commented on the concept of imbedded energy. Fossil fuels are the chemical basis for production of plastics and associated commodities. She also commented on:
 - Potential use of hydrogen and fuel cells for energy supply. This technology is gaining traction.
 - Positive example of sustainable energy systems is with Burlington, VT's electrical department.

OSER Update

- Dawn is applying for the next round of funding for the Power Saver Retrofits Program to provide energy efficiency home improvements for people with low and moderate incomes.
- Shannon and Dawn are reviewing a resolution to the MWCOG Board to update regional climate goals and will meet with them on September 23rd to propose and to review the elements of the 2030 Regional Climate Action Plan. This will form the basis of the County's future efforts.
- OSER just received bids for five pond retrofit projects and are reviewing them.
- Othello park is now open. OSER planted 20 acres of trees there through Creek ReLeaf.
- OSER staff recently responded to a spill of septic material in a drainage ditch. The Town of Emmitsburg helped us to remediate it because they were close, despite it not being in the town limits.
- OSER is in the process of hiring an Engineering Technician to conduct required tracking of stormwater data and upgrade our files, as well as doing GIS maps for the office

Commissioner Interest

- Ron mentioned National Electric Drive Week, a virtual experience encouraging electric vehicles.
- Faith has shared the US Army's Climate Resilience Handbook which was developed by a contractor. More information is available. She has also shared a link for a clean energy symposium via email.

- Kevin advised that the Climate Emergency Mobilization Working Group is actively proceeding with a substantial membership. The measure to increase stream buffers has passed and is a positive. He will request a copy of the Lake Linganore dredging report.
- Mark noted that he has been officially approved for a new term. He continues his interest on microgrids. He continues to follow activities of the Maryland Clean Energy Center which is another regional entity worthy of interaction by Commission members.

Public Comment

2 minute limit per person

No public attendance or comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm. .